

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video information processing apparatus  
associating with a blinking light source, comprising:  
an input device configured to input video  
5 information;

a memory device configured to store identification  
information corresponding to a blinking pattern of the  
blinking light source;

10 a blinking light decoder configured to decode the  
blinking pattern of the light source blinking in the  
video information input by said input device into  
corresponding identification information on the basis  
of the identification information stored in said memory  
device; and

15 an output device configured to output together  
with the input video the identification information  
converted by said blinking light decoder.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said blinking light decoder includes a recognizing  
20 device configured to recognize blinking of said light  
source by summing luminance values of all pixels  
included in the video information and detecting a  
change in sum over several frames.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
25 said output device multiplexes the identification  
information and the video information while associating  
the identification information with the video

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information, and outputs the multiplexed video.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
said output device includes a converter configured to  
convert identification information into a sound, and a  
5 multiplexer configured to multiplex the sound and video.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said output device represents the identification  
information with a character string indicating an  
information access point on the Internet.

10 6. A video information processing apparatus  
associating with a blinking light source, comprising:  
an input device configured to input video  
information;

15 a memory device configured to store identification  
information corresponding to a blinking pattern of the  
blinking light source;

a blinking light decoder configured to decode the  
blinking pattern of the light source blinking in the  
video information input by said input device into  
20 corresponding identification information on the basis  
of the identification information stored in said memory  
device;

a location detector configured to detect a  
location of the blinking light source in the video  
25 information; and

an output device configured to output together  
with the input video the identification information

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converted by said blinking light decoder and the location of the blinking light source detected by said location detector.

5 7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the blinking pattern includes explanation information, said output device includes at least one of a display device configured to display the explanation information and an audio device configured to output the explanation information by a sound.

10 8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said blinking light decoder includes a recognizing device configured to recognize blinking of said light source by summing luminance values of all pixels included in the video information and detecting a change in sum over several frames.

15 9. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said output device multiplexes the identification information and the video information while associating the identification information with the video information, and outputs the multiplexed video.

20 10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said output device includes a converter configured to covert the identification information into a sound and a multiplexer configured to multiples the sound and the video information.

25 11. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said output device represents the identification

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information by a character string indicating an information access point on the Internet.

12. A video information processing apparatus associating with a blinking light source, comprising:

5 an input device configured to input video information;

a memory device configured to store identification information corresponding to a blinking pattern of the blinking light source;

10 blinking light decoder for converting the blinking pattern of the light source blinking in the video information input by said input device into corresponding identification information on the basis of the identification information stored in said memory device; and

15 a video processing device configured to selectively process the input video in accordance with the identification information converted by said blinking light decoder.

20 13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said processing device masks a video portion specified by the identification information.

25 14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein when the identification information requests no capturing, said processing device smudges the specified video portion.

15. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein

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5 said blinking light decoder includes means for dividing  
a video in a number of video elements arranged in a  
matrix pattern, means for calculating a motion vector  
at each of the video elements and means for determining  
as a region to be processed a portion having a motion  
vector different from a background.

10 16. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
said blinking light decoder includes a detector  
configured to detect as a region to be processed a  
portion where a hue histogram greatly changes in a  
video region expanded from a portion of the blinking  
light source.

15 17. A video information processing apparatus  
associating with a blinking light source, comprising:  
an input device configured to input a video;  
a memory device configured to store identification  
information corresponding to a blinking pattern of the  
blinking light source;

20 a blinking light decoder configured to decode the  
blinking pattern of the light source blinking in the  
video information input by said input device into  
corresponding identification information on the basis  
of the identification information stored in said memory  
device; and

25 a message output device configured to output a  
preset message in accordance with the identification  
information converted by said blinking light decoder.

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18. A video information processing apparatus associating with a blinking light source, comprising:

an input device configured to input video information;

5 a memory device configured to store identification information corresponding to a blinking pattern of the blinking light source;

10 a blinking light decoder configured to decode the blinking pattern of the light source blinking in the video information input by said input device into corresponding identification information on the basis of the identification information stored in said memory device;

15 a location detector configured to detect a location of the blinking light source in the video information;

a subject memory device configured to store identification information representing a subject to be detected; and

20 a subject detection device configured to detect a location of the subject having the identification information that is converted by said blinking light decoder and stored in said subject memory device, on the basis of the location of the blinking light source  
25 detected by said location detector.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said subject detection device detects a plurality of

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subjects on the basis of a plurality of pieces of identification information corresponding to a plurality of blinking light sources.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein  
5 said subject detection device includes an output device configured to output a warning when all the subjects corresponding to the plurality of pieces of identification information in the video information cannot be detected.

10 21. A transmitter used in said video information processing apparatus defined in claim 1, comprising:

a blinking pattern memory device configured to store a blinking pattern representing identification information of a subject; and

15 a blinking light source configured to blink and emit light in accordance with the blinking pattern stored in said blinking pattern memory device.

22. A transmitter used for said video information processing apparatus defined in claim 6, comprising:

20 a blinking pattern memory device configured to store a blinking pattern representing identification information of a subject; and

a blinking light source configured to blink and emit light in accordance with the blinking pattern  
25 stored in said blinking pattern memory device.

23. A transmitter used for said video information processing apparatus defined in claim 12, comprising:

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a blinking pattern memory device configured to store a blinking pattern representing identification information of a subject; and

5 a blinking light source configured to blink and emit light in accordance with the blinking pattern stored in said blinking pattern memory device.

24. A transmitter used for said video information processing apparatus defined in claim 17, comprising:

10 a blinking pattern memory device configured to store a blinking pattern representing identification information of a subject; and

a blinking light source configured to blink and emit light in accordance with the blinking pattern stored in said blinking pattern memory device.

15 25. A transmitter used for said video information processing apparatus defined in claim 18, comprising:

a blinking pattern memory device configured to store a blinking pattern representing identification information of a subject; and

20 a blinking light source configured to blink and emit light in accordance with the blinking pattern stored in said blinking pattern memory device.

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